

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 074122

FOLLOWING REPEAT BUDAPEST 851, ACTION SECSTATE 10 APRIL 1974.
QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 0851

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, HU

SUBJ: KADAR'S VIEWS ON US RELATIONS

1. AT APRIL 4 GOH MAJOR RECEPTION FOR PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND DIPLOMATS, KADAR ENGAGED JAPANESE AND FRG AMBASSADORS AND MY SELF SEPARATELY IN SHORT CONVERSATIONS.

2. AFTER OPENING WITH A FEW LIGHT PLEASANTRIES ABOUT CARDINAL MINDSZENTY NO LONGER LIVING IN EMBASSY, KADAR SAID HE FELT THAT RELATIONS WITH US WERE IMPROVING, BUT IMPROVING SLOWLY. (HE USED WORD SLOWLY TWICE). HE SAID WE HAD SETTLED SEVERAL ISSUES IN LAST FEW YEARS BUT THERE WERE OTHERS THAT STILL NEEDED WORKING ON. I REPLIED THAT MY ASSIGNMENT FROM PRESIDENT WAS TO FURTHER IMPROVE US-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS AND THAT I KNEW HE TOO WOULD LIKE TO MOVE FORWARD WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

3. I OBSERVED I HAD CAREFULLY READ HIS SPEECH SUBSEQUENT TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE (CC) SESSION AND REGARDED
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IT AS IMPORTANT. KADAR SAID HE WAS PLEASED THAT I HAD

TAKEN NOTE OF IT, BUT DID NOT EXPAND UPON SUBSTANCE.
HE DID NOTE THAT HE HAD "DEFENDED" POPE FOR HIS DECISION
TO VACATE SEAT AT ESZTERGOM AND REPEATED THAT THOSE WHO
HAD ACCUSED POPE OF DOING SO UNDER HUNGARIAN PRESSURE
ENTIRELY MISUNDERSTOOD GOH CAPABILITIES IN SUCH MATTERS.

4. DEPUTY FONMIN NAGY, WHO ACTED AS INTERPRETER,
VOLUNTEERED AFTERWARDS THAT KADAR WAS VERY CIRCUMSPECT
IN WHAT HE SAID AND THAT WE SHOULD TAKE HIS COMMENTS
ABOUT PACE OF IMPROVING RELATIONS SERIOUSLY. HE ADDED
THAT AS A SUPERB POLITICIAN KADAR KNEW HOW TOHANDLE
HUNGARIAN SITUATION BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE.

5. IN APPEARANCE KADAR IS GRAY IN COLOR, ALMOST ASHEN,
SLIGHTLY FLESHY, AND SOMEWHAT AGING; HIS DRESS IS
RATHER UNDISTINGUISHED. HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO SENSE
OF THAT IN TALKING WITH HIM. HE WAS LIVELY, JOVIAL
AND VERY MUCH ALERT.

6. KADAR SPENT A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME AT RECEPTION
WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR PAVLOV AND THREE RANKING
SOVIET GENERALS IN HUNGARY, BUT CLEARLY ALSO WANTED
TO HAVE A FEW WORDS WITH KEY WESTERN AMBASSADORS.
HE WAS NOT STEERED TO ME BY NAGY OR AN AIDE BUT CAME
OVER ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE.

7. ASIDE FROM PRIME MINISTER FOCK, OTHER HUNGARIAN
OFFICIAL WHO APPEARED TO BE MOST ACTIVE AT RECEPTION
WAS NEMETH, WHO SPENT A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME
WITH SOVIETS AND OTHER HUNGARIANS. GEN. OLAH
(HUNGARIAN CHIEF OF STAFF) WAS CLEARLY MORE CENTER
OF MILITARY ATTENTION THAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE CZINEGE.
PEDERSEN

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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